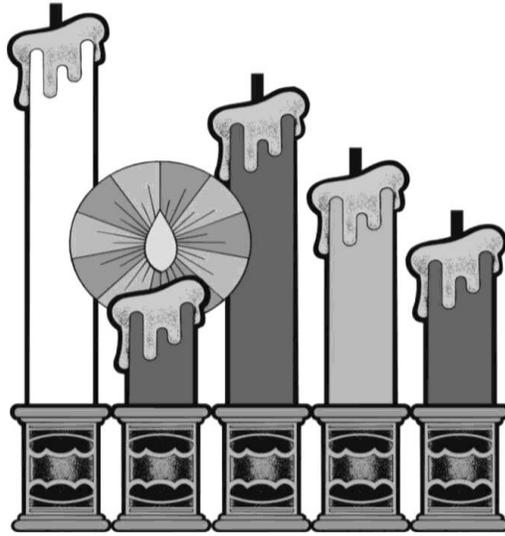


# *“Growing God’s Kingdom”*



## *FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT*

November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## **MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

3 SOUTH THIRD STREET  
MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059  
(717)-436-6213

**RADIO:** AM 1700

**OFFICE EMAIL:** [mlchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:mlchurchoffice@gmail.com)

**WEBSITE:** [mlcmifflintown.org](http://mlcmifflintown.org)

**TODAY’S INTRODUCTION:** *Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.*

# Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street  
Mifflintown, PA 17059  
Church Office: 717-436-6213

Samuel Leister  
Andrea Cameron  
Bob St. Clair  
Randy Clark  
Kay Varner & Kim White

Vicar  
Choir Director  
Organist  
Lector  
Altar Guild

## THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT SERVICE OF HEALING

November 29, 2020 – 10:30 a.m.

\*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

### PREPARATION

CHIMES

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE:

Lighting of Altar Candles and Advent Wreath

[Please use the prelude as a quiet time to prepare yourself for worship.]

### \* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.

**C Amen.**

P Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Loving and forgiving God,

**C we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

P People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free—free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, + comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

### GATHERING

\* GATHERING HYMN

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

(vss. 1 & 2) bulletin, pg. 12

\* GREETING

P Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the promised gifts of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

\* KYRIE (spoken)

P Lord, have mercy upon us. C **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

P Christ, have mercy upon us. C **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

P Lord, have mercy upon us. C **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

“IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR” (VS. 1)

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav’n’s all gracious king.”  
The world in solemn still-ness lay to hear the angels sing.

P Lord, have mercy upon us. C **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

P Christ, have mercy upon us. C **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

P Lord, have mercy upon us. C **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

\* PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison)

P Let us pray...

C **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**WORD**

*This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.*

FIRST READING.....Isaiah 64:1-9

<sup>1</sup>O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—<sup>2</sup>as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! <sup>3</sup>When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. <sup>4</sup>From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. <sup>5</sup>You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. <sup>6</sup>We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. <sup>7</sup>There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. <sup>8</sup>Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. <sup>9</sup>Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

L: Here ends the reading.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM.....Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (**responsively**)

<sup>1</sup>Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

**<sup>2</sup>In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.**

<sup>3</sup>Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**<sup>4</sup>O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

<sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

**<sup>6</sup>You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**<sup>17</sup>Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

<sup>18</sup>And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

**<sup>19</sup>Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

*As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.*

SECOND READING.....1 Corinthians 1:3-9

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—<sup>6</sup>just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—<sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

L: Here ends the reading.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.*

\* GOSPEL.....Mark 13:24-37

P The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)**

[Jesus said:] <sup>24</sup>In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, <sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. <sup>26</sup>Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

<sup>28</sup>From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves,

you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>32</sup>But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. <sup>35</sup>Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, <sup>36</sup>or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)**

SERMON

Vicar Leister

\* HYMN OF THE DAY "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel" (vss. 1, 2 & 3) bulletin, pg. 13

\* APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again, He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

\* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

## THE RITE OF HEALING

Those who sense the need for God's healing in any aspect of their lives may receive the gift of prayer. This sign, first given in baptism, tells us again that we are sealed by the Holy Spirit and may be marked forever with the cross of Christ, who is health and salvation for the whole world.

In its ministry of healing, the church does not replace the gifts of God that come through the scientific community, nor does it promise a cure. The church offers and celebrates gifts such as these: God's presence with strength and comfort in time of suffering, God's promise of wholeness and peace, and God's love embodied in the community of faith.

P Our Lord Jesus healed many as a sign of the reign of God come near and sent the disciples to continue this work of healing—with prayer, the laying on of hands, and anointing. In the name of Christ, the great healer and reconciler of the world, we now entrust to God all who are in need of healing.

P Let us pray,  
Loving God, we give you thanks for the gifts of life on earth, for our human bodies and all you have created. In your great mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Merciful God, by the wounds of your Son we are healed. Bring your saving health to all people. In your great mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Restoring God, your Son Jesus brought the gift of healing and wholeness. Bring your healing presence now to all who are in any distress. In your great mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Almighty God, source of human knowledge, give skill, wisdom, and compassion to all who provide medical care. In your great mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Sustaining God, give gentleness and courage to family members, friends, and caregivers of all who are suffering. In your great mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P God of great and abundant mercy, with your presence sustain all for whom we pray; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

**\*PRAYER OF COMMITMENT & BLESSING OF HEALING (for all)**

P Living God, grant comfort to all those in suffering. When they are afraid, give them courage; when afflicted, give them patience; when dejected, give them hope; and when alone, assure them of the support of your holy people. Almighty God, who is a strong tower to all, to whom all things in heaven and on earth bow and obey, be now and evermore our sure defense, and help us to know that the name given to us for health and salvation is the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**C Amen.**

**\* THE LORD'S PRAYER (In Unison)**

**C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

**\* OFFERING PRESENTATION**

**\* OFFERTORY** "Let All Together Praise Our God" (revised wording)

**Let all together praise our God before his glorious throne;**

**For he will open heav'n above to give us his own Son, to give us his own Son.**

## SENDING

### \* BLESSING

P The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, + now and forever.

**C Amen, Amen, Amen. (sung)**

### \* SENDING HYMN “Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel” (vss. 4 & 5) bulletin, pg. 13

### \* HOLY COMMUNION

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying; Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P The Body of Christ given for you. (Wafer)

P The Blood of Christ shed for you. (Juice)

P Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever.

**C AMEN.**

### \* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## PLEASE TAKE YOUR BULLETIN WITH YOU AND DISPOSE OF AT HOME!

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### **WELCOME TO ALL!**

WITH CHRIST’S LOVE AND GOD’S GRACE, we welcome all who worship at Messiah today. If you are a VISITOR or GUEST, we invite you to record your visit in the guest book provided in the Narthex. If you are seeking a church home, please speak to the Vicar. Our fellowship in Jesus Christ is open and extended to all persons who confess His Lordship over all life. Young children are also encouraged to join us in our worship experience! We are so thankful that you joined us for worship today!

FOR YOUR COMFORT, restrooms are located in the hallway through the double doors of the Adult Sunday School Room and to the left.

JUST A THOUGHT – Henry Law, Christian Thinker: In Christ Jesus, heaven meets earth and earth ascends to heaven.

## **CONGREGATIONAL NEWS**

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SUNDAY BULLETIN IS THURSDAY NOON.

PRAYER CHAIN – If you wish to be included on the email recipient list for the Messiah Prayer Chain, please send an email to Vicar Leister at [sleister@gmail.com](mailto:sleister@gmail.com).

PRAYER REQUESTS will be placed in the Sunday bulletin for **one month**. If you wish to have someone included in the prayer list for an additional month, please contact the church office at 436-6213 or [mlchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:mlchurchoffice@gmail.com). If you have anyone who is a “last minute” addition after the bulletin has been printed on Fridays, please fill out an orange prayer card in the pew and lay it on the stand where the gluten free wafers are placed PRIOR to the morning worship service.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE for any change in addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, or for any requests for building usage. There are a lot of activities and some coordination is needed so events are not “overbooked” in any specific areas of the church (this also applies to church groups who meet in the church). Please contact the office at 436-6213 or email [mlchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:mlchurchoffice@gmail.com) for any changes or requests.

IF ANYONE HAS ANY NEEDS OR CONCERNS, please contact Vicar Sam Leister. If you or someone you know is ill or hospitalized, please let Vicar Leister know. He can be reached at 717-436-8589 (home), or 717-348-1020 (cell), or email at [sleister@gmail.com](mailto:sleister@gmail.com).

THIS MONTH’S “MISSION OF THE MONTH” at Messiah will be for our local Juniata County Food Pantry. The monies will be sent from Messiah directly to the Food Pantry. In addition to your generosity, the PPC allocated funds to match congregational donations up to \$1,000.00. This money comes from budgeted funds that have been unused this calendar year due to the shutdown from the Covid-19 Pandemic. This is just one way in which we can extend our mission in Christ’s love beyond the walls of our church building.

COPIES OF OCTOBER 25, 2020 PPC MINUTES are available in the Adult Sunday School Room.

DECORATING OF THE CHURCH will take place this week in order to keep decorators social distanced. If any family would like to volunteer to help decorate an area of the church and have not yet been contacted, please contact Tawny Mummah. In addition, our annual Hanging of the Greens service will be held on December 6<sup>th</sup> (the second Sunday of Advent). This year’s service will be on the Chrismons.

TENTATIVE INFORMATION FOR CHRISTMAS EVE – This year, it was decided that we would tentatively offer two services – one beginning at 7:00 p.m. and the other at 9:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve. The 7:00 p.m. service would be geared a bit more towards younger children, while the 9:00 p.m. service will be for older children, families, and others who choose to attend. Both services will be broadcast on Facebook Live as well as on AM 1700. Masks will still be required as well as social distancing rules. Communion will only be offered during the 9:00 p.m. service and each service will last no longer than 45 minutes. There will be NO candlelighting this year; however, congregants will be asked to shine their lights on their phones during the time we normally light the individual candles. If Covid shuts things down in our area around this time, we will turn to a complete, single, remote service at 7:00 p.m. which will be broadcast on Facebook Live and AM 1700...plus we will try to send out a Zoom link to everyone.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be offered following the sending hymn in order to minimize any contact during the meal. We will be using communion kits that are pre-packaged and sealed that include a wafer and grape juice. Each person desiring to share in the meal will take a packaged kit when you receive a bulletin.

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

Tuesday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.      Thursday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.      Friday – 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF has launched the 75,000 Face Mask Challenge, a request for volunteers to sew cloth masks that will be sent overseas to slow the spread of COVID-19. If you are interested in participating in this challenge, you can make as few or as many as you would like. Please call or email Cynthia Smith for details about this project at 717-994-4999 or [gramcynthia49@yahoo.com](mailto:gramcynthia49@yahoo.com).

**WOMEN OF THE ELCA**

NEW BATH-SIZE BARS OF SOAP (4 oz. to 5 oz., preferably Ivory or unscented Dove) is continuously collected as an on-going project for Lutheran World Relief. Please place soap in the basket on the blue table in the Adult Sunday School Room.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA CHRISTMAS ANGEL PROJECT – We are sponsoring 6 children this year. The sign-up chart for the gifts that are needed is on the bulletin board in the Kitchenette. Gifts are due at the church by December 6th, wrapped or bagged with a name tag that includes the child's name and number on the tag.

FINAL BLANKET SUNDAY DONATIONS TOTAL is \$735.00. Thanks to all who gave so generously.

THE THANKOFFERING DONATIONS TOTAL is \$359.00.

**COMMUNITY**

**FOOD PANTRY HOLIDAY MEAL DONATION NEEDS**

(These are the foods that are hard for us to get), Turkeys, Turkey Breasts, Hams (3-5 lbs.), canned Sweet Potatoes, and Fruit Cocktail. A donation of \$20 will purchase one complete meal!

## PRAYER LIST

Tyson Aurand  
Carole Baker  
Donna Barton  
Lindsey Barton  
Nick Beward  
Roxanne Boyer  
Andrea Cameron  
Pam Campbell  
Ruth Cisney  
Curtis Clark  
Terry Coder  
Leann Crimmel  
Will DeLancy  
Guy Dillman  
Fred & Dot Dowling  
Renee Dzikowski  
Neil Fisher  
Janie Fogleman  
Jerald (Jerry) Foltz  
Bentley Fulkroad  
Joan Fulkroad  
Terri Gayer  
Eddi Kay Gill  
Paul Goss  
Amy Hart  
Beth Harris

Harry Heikes  
Jennifer Heikes  
Sue Henderson  
Nox Hepburn  
Jason Hockenberry & Family  
Curt & Judy Houtz  
Jennifer Hutchinson  
Matt Hutchinson  
Brenda Imes  
Peggy Inch  
Doc Johnston  
Guy Kerstetter  
Denny King  
Darvin Krouse  
Pam Lawson  
Gwen Swisher Lewis  
Carol Lyter  
Anthony Martin  
Carlen McClure  
Charlie, Amanda, & Isabel Meinsler  
Messiah's TEEM  
Cecilia Miller  
Ellwood Miller  
Larry Miller  
Shirley Miller  
Jim Minick  
Landon Musser

Darve Nace  
Austin Parker  
Noel Peachey  
Dave Phelan  
Butch & Sandy Pines  
Betty Ranck  
Keith Ranck  
Matt, Amy & Olivia Reed  
Mary Sanders  
Mackenzie Shearer  
Ronald Shearer  
Mike Sparks  
Donald Speece  
Bob & Jeanette St. Clair  
Charles Stump  
Alice Swartz  
Gabriel Sweeney (great-grandson of Neil & Pat Fisher)  
Dorothy Towsey  
Rich Walters  
Todd Wert  
Erma Williamson  
Jim Woltman  
Mackenzie Wray  
Dorothy Zeiders  
George Zimmerman  
Linda Zimmerman

## PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS

Ray Bramm  
Ruth Cisney  
Max Ernest  
Margaret Guss  
Gail Henderson  
Mona Lawson  
Jane Marhefka  
Minnie Minick

Edith Nipple  
Esther Rhine  
Carol Simonton  
Sieber & Ona Stoner  
Ken & Kay Stuck  
Velma Suloff  
Kitty Walters  
Jim Yetter

# Messiah Lutheran Church Poinsettia and/or Lutheran Disaster Response Order Form



In keeping with Messiah Lutheran Church tradition, poinsettias may now be purchased for our services this holiday season in honor or memory of loved ones. They will be used to beautify our altar area to help us celebrate the holiday season. We are again including this year another way to honor or to remember loved ones by making a donation in their name to the Lutheran Disaster Response effort. In the wake of this year's many weather and wild fire disasters and because of those still suffering, we are again adding this worthwhile opportunity for those who may not usually consider purchasing a poinsettia.

Please complete the order form below and attach **a check for either type (payment or donation)**, made payable to **“Messiah Lutheran Church”** and print **Poinsettias or Lutheran Disaster Response** in the memo line. Attach the check to the order form and place it in the offering plate or return it to the church office by **December 11, 2020. PAYMENT OR DONATION MUST ACCOMPANY YOUR ORDER!!**

Thank you for helping to beautify our space, and/or supporting Lutheran Disaster Response!

Please note, that if you are making a donation for the disaster response effort, our Treasurer will keep track of all money received for that cause and write one check at the end of the Christmas season from our church to the Lutheran Disaster Response and also enclose a listing of those who were honored or remembered. As in the past, a full listing of either a Poinsettia or a Donation (will not include the amount of the donation) with those persons honored or remembered will be listed in the bulletin for Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> and on Christmas Eve.

**Flowers may be picked up anytime following our Christmas Eve Service.**

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## Poinsettia/Lutheran Disaster Response Order Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

LIST THE DEDICATION AS FOLLOWS:

Please check one: In Honor Of (  ) or In Memory Of (  )

---

**I would like to order and/or donate as follows:**

6" Poinsettia (4 to 5 blooms) \$7.80 each: # of plants \_\_\_\_\_ x \$7.80 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Donation to Lutheran Disaster Response in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_